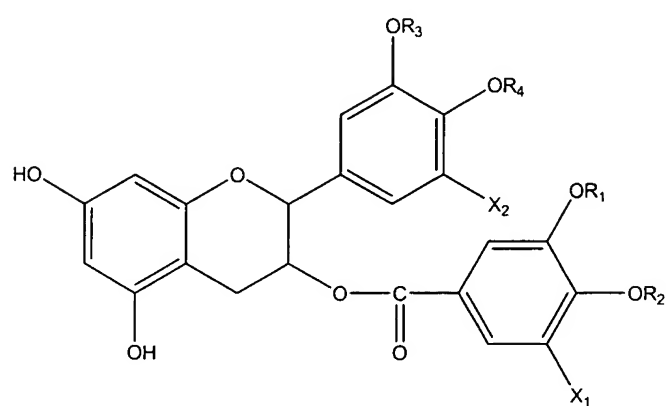


ABSTRACT

Functional beverages and compositions are provided that suppress allergic rhinitis and prevent and treat hyperlipemia and related diseases thereof i.e. arteriosclerosis, obesity and liver diseases.

The O-methylated catechin expressed by the chemical formula (1) shown below is included in a constitutive effective amount as an allergic rhinitis-suppressing drug and a lipid-lowering drug;



• • Chemical formula (1)

[in which R1, R2, R3 and R4 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X1 and X2 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group.]